

Application Serial No.: 10/625,657
Reply to Office Action dated August 23, 2004

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A casting apparatus including a die that contains a molten metal that is poured via an opening section disposed above the die. The casting apparatus also includes a heater disposed above the die, and a gas supplying structure for supplying an inter gas to a surface of the molten metal. The casting apparatus further includes a lid disposed between the surface of the molten metal and the heater, and a lid moving structure for moving the lid to the die relatively so as to control the opening amount of the opening section above the die.